UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/655
7 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the extremely serious situation brought about by the aggression of the armed forces of Croatia against the territory and population of Serb Krajina.

The totally unprovoked, brutal and shameless aggression that was launched by Croatia in the early morning hours of 4 August 1995 against the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) is continuing unabated. This is the seventh aggression of Croatia against the UNPAs that has been allowed to go unpunished.

Horrifying destruction, the murder of innocent civilians - women, children and the elderly - and the violation of the basic principles of humanitarian law are taking place. The exodus of the civilian population and unprecedented wave of "ethnic cleansing", which is displacing more than 100,000 Krajina Serbs, are a telling proof of the policy of genocide against the Serb people. The fear that the Tudjman regime instilled in the Krajina Serbs has been most drastically confirmed and fully justified.

Like the fascist rule of the infamous Ustashi leader A. Pavelic from 1941 to 1945, the regime of F. Tudjman has before it the same final goal: to annihilate and expel the Serb people from their ancestral homes in the territory of Krajina.

Long before the aggression against the Krajina Serbs, which is now at its height, pressures and intensive preparations began by F. Tudjman and his regime for a confrontation with the Serbs. More than 350,000 Serbs from the territories that are under Tudjman's control have already fled. On the other hand, those who attempted to remain in their homes were mistreated in every conceivable way and forcibly converted into the Catholic faith. Discrimination in all areas of everyday life and work (eviction, lay-offs on grounds of nationality and illegal seizure of property) and gross violations of fundamental human and civil rights were rampant. During the aggression of Croatia against UNPA Sector West in May of this year, virtually the whole Serb population was murdered, wounded, imprisoned or expelled from the region.

All of this clearly indicates that what is at stake is a thoroughly planned aggression, whose aim has been to "cleanse" the territories of Krajina of the Serb population.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia notes with utmost indignation and bitterness that the international community is not undertaking resolute measures to stop and disenable the monstrous policy of Croatia against the Krajina Serbs. Particular responsibility rests with the Security Council, whose primary role, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, is to maintain peace and security and protect the victims of aggression. The Security Council, which already confirmed that such actions of Croatia seriously threaten to escalate the conflict, must undertake concrete and resolute measures against such criminal and genocidal acts of Croatia.

From the very beginning of the outbreak of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Security Council has directed its decisions and activities against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia imposing on it, without any justification, the most comprehensive, harsh and unprecedented sanctions in the history of the United Nations. The question must be raised as to what criteria the Security Council is now implementing considering the open aggression of Croatia against Krajina and flagrant violations of humanitarian law. It is also cynical that the Council ignored the involvement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft on the side of the aggressor. Regrettably, the Security Council is not endeavouring to secure the implementation of its own decisions and resolutions regarding the arms embargo on Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the prevention of "ethnic cleansing" and the prosecution of Croatian and Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat war criminals.

Stemming from the above, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be convened to consider the situation caused by Croatia's aggression against Krajina with a view to adopting a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The resolution must in most resolute terms condemn the Croatian aggression, the crimes committed, particularly "ethnic cleansing" and destruction. It must also demand that Croatia's aggression cease immediately and that its troops withdraw to positions prior to the offensive. Concrete punitive measures must be undertaken against Croatia by introducing sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter because of Croatia's aggression against Serb Krajina.

I request that you immediately inform the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.